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“The Kingdom” Analysis

**Introduction**

*The Kingdom*, directed by Peter Berg, provides viewers an essentially realistic prospective of the Middle East. For in some areas of Saudi Arabia, there remains to be a large amount of violence and hatred for foreigners. On the contrary, the movie failed to represent those areas where peace and compromise exists in a respectable manner. It was thrilling to find that the plot of the movie included many forms of actions within the criminal investigation. As for politics… I’m glad they left them out. Overall, *The Kingdom* was capable of presenting a visual idea of the beliefs and customs in the Middle East.

**Summary**

Agent Fleury (Foxx), receives the case of a lifetime: to capture a terrorist behind the deadly attack of American forces in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He establishes an elite team of American FBI agents including Agent Mayes (Garner), Agent Leavitt (Bateman), and Agent Sykes (Cooper), and sets off for the Middle East. Through the efforts to explore various parts of the area, the agents find the local law enforcements more or less an interference than a help. When a Saudi policeman, determined to capture the terrorist as well, agrees to aid the American crew, they find his assistance and ability to speak Arabic will help hasten the discovery of the crime and it’s mastermind. After suffering the captivity of one of their agents, the crew is given the new task of saving their friend and partner along with solving the crime. Their search leads them unexpectedly to the terrorists’ front door. Unfortunately, among the midst of quick gunshots and death of the killer, they suffer the loss of their Saudi officer as well. The agents, with minor abrasions and bruises return home safely to their families.

**Understanding of Middle Eastern Society**

In the movie, a scene took place in which the American FBI agents wanted to meet with the Prince in order to further their investigation. Agent Mayes was unable to be a part of this meeting because she was a female. Being a viewer, this gave me a grasp of the difference between the Middle Eastern Society and American Society. Clearly, in Saudi Arabia, women have fewer rights than men and are not treated equally. It was as if Agent Mayes was not worthy enough to meet with the Prince solely because of her sex.

**Favorite Scene**

The ending of the movie can easily be labeled as my favorite scene. Agent Mayes returns to the room of which she previously frightened in attempts to comfort the young girl. As her team members trace behind her into the room, the girl gives Mayes a gift in return: a royal blue marble. Immediately the Saudi Arabian police officer, Al Ghazi and the rest of the crew recognized the marble and proceeded to speak to the eldest man in the room. Colonel Al Ghazi knew any bomb-maker’s bomb backfires at least once in his lifetime and therefore offered to shake his hand. He realized the hand was defected, only a second too late. This scene aroused a great amount of tension and kept viewers on the edge of their seat.

**Favorable Impression**

At the end of the movie, when the American FBI agents were boarding their plane for the ride home, a Saudi Arabian officer handed them what appeared to be beads. This was a sign of their appreciation and thankfulness for the help the agents provided their country. Without the assistance of these skilled American people, their country’s people might still be in danger. It gives the viewer the image that there are descent and respectful people in all parts of the world, even where evil exists. Even though some of the Saudi’s might have hatred towards Americans, there are those who value what we have to offer to other parts of the world.

**Unfavorable Impression**

The scene has set, giving way to the present day sight of the Middle East. Children and adults reside in a local gated baseball field where spectators cheer, players sprint the bases, and the young ones toss a ball. Then *WHAM*, gunshots are heard, a hasty vehicle moves quickly, gunmen begin knocking down the crowd with a load of bullets, and finally, a bomb explodes. Soon there’s chaos and death amongst many innocent people. Any viewer would automatically fear this country and be fearful of ever stepping foot on the land. However, this scene represents only an unfavorable aspect of the Saudi Arabian life.

**Conclusion**

Learning about Middle Eastern Society can be a challenge. It’s often difficult to acquire a complete grasp of any country’s customs and beliefs without a beneficial visual of events that can and do occur. Never facing a dull moment, the cast members played their roles flawlessly, as if they were true FBI agents. *The Kingdom* provided an image not only of the Saudi’s lifestyle and their actions, but the relationship between the Saudi Arabians and the American people. The movie supplied proof of the stereotypes that Americans have towards others throughout the world.